GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2955
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2017
Duping by Recruitment Agencies
Chowdhary Shri Pankaj

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of duping of workers who were willing to work abroad by the recruitment agencies have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the number of such cases surfaced during the last two years and the current year;

(c) whether the Government is aware of such Indian workers who have been sent abroad illegally and they are undergoing the imprisonment there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to make provisions for the fake recruitment agencies/agents functioning in India and sending labourers overseas for employment with an intention of their monitoring while taking action against them for their wrong doing and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) It has been reported by the Indian Missions that they do receive complaints from Indian migrant workers regarding violations of contractual terms, adverse working conditions, medical and insurance related problems and non-payment/ less payment/ delayed payment/ withholding of salaries etc. The Missions, on receipt of such complaints, take up the matter with the concerned sponsor/ Employers as well as with the local authorities for redressal of these grievances. If the emigrant is recruited through a registered Recruiting Agent, Show-cause notice is served on registered Recruiting Agents against whom complaints are received and the Recruiting Agent is directed to settle/resolve the complaint. The year-wise details of such show-cause notices issued to registered Recruiting Agents under the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 is as under:

Year No. of Show-cause Notices issued
2015 61
2016 174
2017
(up to 30.06.2017) 100

(c) & (d) Data relating to Indian workers, who have been sent abroad illegally is not available with the Government because they bypass the system established by the Government. Therefore, information of such Indian workers undergoing imprisonment is also not available. Only data relating to Indian emigrants, holding Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) category Passport and legally proceeding to 18 notified ECR countries for overseas employment, is maintained in e-Migrate system.

(e) The Government has been receiving complaints/grievances from emigrants and their family members/relatives from time to time of being cheated by illegal agents on the pretext of providing overseas jobs. Such complaints are forwarded to concerned State Governments and Police authorities urging them to apprehend illegal agents and prosecute them on the basis of complaints.

As per the available records, the number of complaints against unregistered/illegal agents received and referred to the State Governments during last three years from 2014 onwards is as under:

Year No. of Complaints
received Cases referred to State Governments for action Prosecution Sanction sought Prosecution Sanction given
2014 170 153 08 08
2015 195 101 11 11
2016 231 231 42 42
2017
(upto 30.6.2017) 220 220 15 15

Government has also issued a Standard Operating Procedure on 26th May, 2016, to be followed by States on receipt of such

complaints against illegal agents. The Ministry of External Affairs has launched a mass media awareness campaign for Safe and Legal emigration for overseas employment. The State Governments have also been requested to launch periodic visual and print media campaign creating awareness among people to use the services of only Registered Recruiting Agencies, and not to go through illegal agents for overseas jobs.